

Kennesaw Police extend office hours, cut fuel costs, save tax dollars

Kennesaw Police officers work hard every day to keep citizens safe. But lately no one has been safe from rising gas costs. Not to be deterred, Kennesaw's finest are battling back with a creative approach to cutting fuel costs, and their plan is having the added effect of helping the environment and improving service to Kennesaw citizens.

With gas prices heading quickly toward \$4 a gallon, Kennesaw officers came up with a number of ways to conserve fuel in their day-to-day operations. To start with, they began turning off their engines when on a call, on safety stops and other situations.

The officers also began doing foot patrols in parks, subdivisions and apartment complexes rather than driving through. They have also begun using more bike patrols. Through the end of May, the result has been a savings of more than 1,800 gallons of gas. With current gas costs, the department has saved well over \$6,000.

"As fuel prices continue to rise, the Police Department has recognized the need to reduce fuel costs as much as possible while continuing to provide the best possible service," said Kennesaw Police Chief Bill Westenberger.



Extended Hours More Convenient for Kennesaw Citizens

KPD also recently implemented a new "flex" schedule, which will help conserve fuel, as well as offer additional service and convenience to the public. The flex schedule will allow the department's support staff to work a 10-hour, four-day-week schedule; so police department offices are now open from **7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday**. The extended hours allow citizens to pick up incident reports, records or conduct other business at police headquarters before or after regular office hours.

"We are always looking at ways to better serve Kennesaw residents by reducing costs and improving the service they receive," said Chief Westenberger. "And we are continuing to re-evaluate our operations to determine other ways to reduce fuel usage."

For more information on the Kennesaw Police Department, please visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov.

Kennesaw Police Administrative Office - New Hours:
Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Emergency, call 9-1-1
Non-Emergency, call 770-422-2505

Message from Mayor Mark Mathews

With temperatures already into the 90s, there's no denying that Summer is here. But the Summer heat is hardly slowing down activities in the City of Kennesaw.

We continue to finalize plans for the Pedestrian Underpass which will connect Main Street/Downtown with the Historic Depot area. This is exciting not only for the safety and accessibility it will provide, but it will also be a major attraction as plans call for large color murals through the tunnel depicting scenes from the Great Locomotive Chase.

The Underpass will be one component of what will become a wonderful park setting, as seen in the new master plan for the Depot Park. The plan calls for a "cultural campus" which will tie



together the Historic Depot and Southern Museum with a new public library, amphitheater, a replica of the old Lacy Hotel, living history program area, along with road improvements to enhance traffic flow. Be sure to visit the City's website to read more about the Depot Park Master Plan.

Plans for the Kennesaw Skate Park are also coming together. Skate park committee volunteers have put a first rate plan together for a skate park at Swift-Cantrell Park, and they're working hard to raise funds to make it a reality.

Kennesaw continues to be a great place for Summertime fun. The City's free Summer Concert Series got underway with Parrotheads converging on the Depot with A1A, and we'll continue the fun with the Pigs & Peaches BBQ on August 8 & 9. I'll be at my grill again this year so be sure to stop by and say hello. And, be sure to come wrap up the Summer festivities with the last summer concert and Taste of Kennesaw on September 6.

I hope you have a fun, safe and enjoyable Summer!

Kennesaw News Briefs

Kennesaw meets Whoville, Aug. 2!

Star 94's Movies Under the Stars returns to Kennesaw with their giant 40-foot inflatable screen and a FREE screening of **Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!** Bring a picnic basket, blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy a unique outdoor movie experience in the heart of Kennesaw's newest park. Arrive early for a prime viewing spot. **Saturday, August 2.** Movie starts at dark. Free admission. Swift-Cantrell Park, 3140 Old Hwy 41, Kennesaw. For more information, call 770-422-9714, or visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec.

Register online for Rec Activities

Activity registration is easier than ever with the City of Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department's Online Registration system. Check availability, view program information, register and pay with just a few clicks - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's fast, easy, convenient and free (no online transaction fees). For more information visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec.

City Partners with Business Association on Wireless Internet

The City of Kennesaw is working with the Kennesaw Business Association to develop a special custom-marketing package for KBA members. This package would allow business owners who are members of KBA to promote their businesses through ads and directory listings on the Kennesaw Wireless Internet website. Additionally, KBA members advertising on the Kennesaw WiFi site would receive special rates as well as priority listings on a business directory located on the site. Visit Kennesaw's WiFi at www.kennesawwifi.net.

Former City Clerk Passes Away

Former Kennesaw City Clerk Susan Rackley, 72, passed away June 7, 2008. A longtime Kennesaw resident, she served Kennesaw as City Clerk from 1974 to 1997. Funeral services were held June 10 in Summerville. She is survived by her son, daughter, two sisters, a brother, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Kennesaw's Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival, Aug. 8 & 9

Kennesaw will be the place to be for barbeque, live entertainment and delicious treats at the annual Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival, **Friday and Saturday, August 8-9.**

The festival kicks off on Friday at 8 p.m. with a FREE blues concert by Bluestorm Recording artist Roger "Hurricane" Wilson at the Ben Robertson Community Center. On Saturday, the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) sanctioned BBQ competition begins, with judging at 11 a.m. and cash prizes offered in four categories: chicken, pork ribs, pork and beef brisket.

A backyard BBQ and peach dessert

contest will also take place with judging in four categories: chicken, pork ribs, pork and peach desserts. Also on hand

Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be live musical performers and a kids zone with make-and-go crafts and giant inflatables. The festival will be in a new location at the Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive (near the entrance to Adams Park). The

Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival is presented by the Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department. The BBQ competition is a Georgia State Championship Barbeque Cookoff.



Kennesaw Police Carry the Torch for Special Olympics

The Kennesaw Police Department participated again this year in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Torch Run, held in May, raises funds to support the programs of Special Olympics Georgia.

Kennesaw officers received the torch from Acworth Police at Swift-Cantrell Park and proceeded through Downtown Kennesaw to the other side of Barrett Parkway, where they handed off the torch to Marietta Police. Kennesaw officers continued on to the Marietta Police headquarters. This year, Kennesaw Police have raised more than \$75,000 for Special Olympics Georgia, whose mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and



adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and share friendships with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community.

City Completes Depot Master Plan

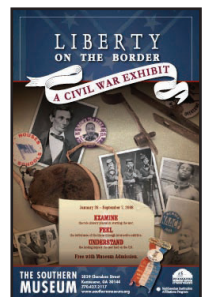
The Kennesaw Depot Area Analysis and Transportation Study has been prepared for the City of Kennesaw and the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority to address development of a new regional-sized library in Downtown, cultural and recreational opportunities associated with the new Library and improvements to the downtown transportation network.

The study incorporates recommendations and goals from previous planning studies in addition to current expressed needs. For more information about this study, please visit the Depot Park Master Plan page on the City's website.

Museum Exhibit Continues

Southern Museum visitors gain a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding the Civil War in the Museum's **Liberty on the Border** exhibit, which features interactive exhibits, hands-on replicas, artifacts and engaging audio-visual displays.

The exhibition will be on display at the Southern Museum **through Sept. 7.** For more information, visit www.southernmuseum.org or call (770) 427-2117, extension 3177.



Project Spotlight: New Development in the City of Kennesaw

The Edge Connection Enterprise Center held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 24 at the new development underway on U.S. Highway 41 and Kennesaw Due West Road.

The Enterprise Center will help grow sustainable businesses, create new jobs and enhance economic development in the Kennesaw area, the Atlanta region and the state of Georgia.

The 30,000 square foot facility will include 25 mixed-use incubator offices targeting service/product and light manufacturing ventures, as well as a 6-station commercial complex kitchen targeting food-related businesses, rural farmers and organic growers. The facility will also include event space and a market



place to showcase high end products and food related items.

The first of its kind in the Atlanta region, the Edge Connection has the cooperation of Kennesaw State University, the Marcus Foundation, the Hewlett Packard Foundation, the Kennesaw Development Au-

thority and the City of Kennesaw.

The Kennesaw Development Authority and the City's Economic Development Department have been actively working for more than two years to help bring this center into the City. Anticipated cost of the project is \$10.5 million. For more information about the Edge Connection Enterprise Center, please visit www.theedgeconnection.com.

City of Kennesaw appoints new Police Chief, Deputy Chief

The City of Kennesaw recently announced the appointment of William "Bill" E. Westenberger to the position of Chief of the Kennesaw Police Department. Chief Westenberger, who came to the Kennesaw Police Department in 2004, was appointed chief in April.



Previously, Chief Westenberger served 13 years with the MARTA police department in Atlanta. Chief Westenberger served as a uniform patrol officer, was in the Tactical unit - S.O.R.T. (Special Operations Response Team), was a Sergeant and Lieutenant in the training division, a Lieutenant in the uniform patrol division and then served as Chiefs aide / Accreditation Manager. Chief Westenberger also teaches at Chattahoochee Technical College as an adjunct instructor in the Criminal Justice Program.

"Bill has been a great asset to the City since he was hired in August of 2004," said City Manager Steve Kennedy. "Bill understands the direction that the City needs to move in and he has the skill set necessary to accomplish what is expected."

Chief Westenberger is a graduate of South Cobb High School and received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from West Georgia College. While at MARTA, Chief Westenberger attended the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College at Columbus State University and received a Masters degree in Public Administration. Chief Westenberger and his wife Bonnie live in the Cobb County area where he grew up.

Deputy Chief Barbara Tolbert

Major Barbara Tolbert was promoted in May to Deputy Chief of the Kennesaw Police Department.

Deputy Chief Tolbert started her career with the Kennesaw Police Department in 1984, serving as a communications officer for six years until attending the police academy in 1990.

She worked as a uniform patrol officer for six years and advanced in rank to Corporal in the Uniform Patrol Division. She continued to serve the community as a Corporal for three years until her talents were needed in another division, Support Services, where she advanced to the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Major. While she was Major the position transitioned to Field Operations.

A graduate of North Cobb High School class of 1983, while she was Major over Field Operations Deputy Chief Tolbert attended the University of Phoenix where she received a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and graduated with honors in 2007. Deputy Chief Tolbert was born and raised in the city of Kennesaw, where several of her family members still reside. She and her husband John live in the Woodstock area.



Free Summer Concerts Continue



The 2008 Summer Concert Series is now in high gear. Be sure to come out to the Historic Depot to enjoy these free outdoor concerts showcasing a variety of acclaimed performance groups.

Remaining shows this summer:

- **July 3** - Frontiers - A Tribute to Journey/Followed by Fireworks
- **Aug. 8** - Roger "Hurricane" Wilson
- **Sept. 6** - The Great American Rock & Roll Revival

All shows start at 8 p.m. at The Depot. For more information on the Kennesaw Summer Concert Series and other upcoming events in Kennesaw, please visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/summerconcertseries, or call 770-422-9714.

Events/City Services Calendar

For more information on these events, go to www.kennesaw-ga.gov/CurrentEvents.asp

Mayor and City Council Meetings

The Kennesaw Mayor and City Council meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Work Session meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the regular meeting. Public attendance is encouraged. For more information, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov or call 770-424-8274.

Sanitation/Trash Pickup Schedule Changes

June 30 – July 4 – No Lawn Debris or Recycle pickup Friday, July 4, Independence Day. Garbage routes on Thursday and Friday will shift back one day. Metals will be collected on Wednesday and Thursday.

Sept 1 - 5 - No Garbage or Recycle pickup on Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day. Monday and Tuesday garbage routes will shift forward one day. No pick up of Lawn Debris. No changes in Metals pickup.

For more information, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov, or call 770-421-8582.

Community Events

July 3 - Summer Concert Series. Frontiers - A Tribute to Journey, followed by fireworks. The Depot. Free.

Aug. 2 - Free Outdoor Movie: Horton Hears a Who! (Rated G). Swift-Cantrell Park. Movie starts at dark.

Aug. 8 - Summer Concert Series. Roger "Hurricane" Wilson. 8 p.m. The Depot. Free.

Aug. 8-9 - Pigs & Peaches BBQ Festival. Ben Robertson Community Center.

Aug. 16 - Program Palooza & Citywide Picnic. Free. Family-friendly event showcasing programs offered by the Kennesaw Parks & Recreation Department. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Ben Robertson Community Center.

Sept. 6 - Taste of Kennesaw. Downtown Kennesaw. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Featuring over 35 restaurants, music, local entertainment, children's activities and sponsors. For more information, visit www.kennesawbusiness.org.

Sept. 6 - Summer Concert Series. The Great American Rock & Roll Revival. 8 p.m. The Depot. Free.

Sept. 16 - American Red Cross Community Blood Drive. 2 p.m.-7 p.m. Ben Robertson Community Center.

Sept. 24-26 - Community Book, CD & DVD Swap. Drop off books, CDs and DVDs (no records, VHS or cassettes) at the Ben Robertson Community Center on Sept. 24-25, 6-9 p.m. or Friday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and receive a ticket redeemable during "open swap" time on Saturday, Sept. 27, 8-11 a.m. Participation is free. For more information, call 770-422-9714 or visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec.

Smith-Gilbert Arboretum

The Smith-Gilbert Arboretum offers many gardening related programs conducted by experienced instructors and master gardeners. For a list and description, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/sga, or call 770-427-2117, ext. 3059. The Arboretum continues to offer the popular First Friday tours, as well as First Friday evening tours and selected Saturday openings.

First Friday Openings - Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entrance fee is \$5 per person and free guided tours will be con-

ducted at 10 a.m. Parking is limited and pre-registration is required. Upcoming First Friday tour dates are **July 4** and **August 1**.

First Friday Evening Tours - Open select Fridays for evening tours, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Entrance fee is \$5 per person. Remaining summer evening tour dates: **August 1**.

Selected Saturdays (Public Opening Days) - Open select Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entrance fee is \$5 per person. Upcoming dates are **July 19** and **August 16**.

Southern Museum

Kennesaw's Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History offers an array of popular educational programs and exhibits, including popular series for children such as the Mommy & Me Program Series, the Children's History Workshops, Kreative Kids and the Share a Story Program Series. The Museum also offers history lectures, living history, guided history tours and temporary exhibits such as the Liberty on the Border exhibit currently showing.

A Smithsonian Institution affiliate, the Southern Museum features collections of rare Civil War weapons, uniforms, and other items; an exhibit about The Great Locomotive Chase, including a short movie; and a full-scale replica of a locomotive factory that helped rebuild the South after the war. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors, \$5.50 for children 4-12, and free for children 3 and under. Individual and family memberships are also available.

For a schedule of events and programs at the Southern Museum, please visit www.southernmuseum.org, or call 770) 427-2117.



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